

T. A. Crerar to the People of Marquette

Duties in connection with the National Progressive political movement have so demanded my presence in other parts of Canada that it has been impossible for me to spend the time I would have liked in my own constituency of Marquette up till now. I should like, therefore, at this time, to take the opportunity of addressing the electors of this district upon certain phases of the present election campaign.

Evidence is now indisputable that the opponents of the Progressive cause in this election are seeking to divert the mind of the people from the real issues which so seriously confront the Dominion. They are trying to do this by raising the "class" cry against the farmer, by impugning the loyalty of those who support the Progressive movement in Western Canada, and by directing in a most unscrupulous manner personal charges against myself. All of these efforts I will discuss on the public platform in Marquette on my return from the East. And I will deal with them too, as I have dealt with them in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, endeavoring at the same time to keep clear before the eyes of the people what constitute their real and vital interests in the coming election.

The Progressive Movement bases its appeal to the country on a straight, clear-cut policy. It asks you first of all to see that the next Federal Parliament is composed of members who will be free and independent in their attitude towards future legislation, and not subservient to the big business and financial interests which are behind the present Government with a campaign fund of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Progressive cause also asks you to consider the whole problem

of developing the true sources of our national wealth. It stands for the encouragement of the basic industries, such as agriculture, by reducing costs of production, and finding wider markets for our natural products. It is unalterably opposed to the system of Protection which Canada has had for forty years, and by means of which basic industry has been sorely burdened and dwarfed, and industry of secondary importance has been unduly magnified and elevated.

The Progressive idea in Canadian politics further demands that you examine closely the problem of taxation, and seek to readjust the customs tariff, so that federal taxes, at least, may be raised in a manner just to all of the people of Canada, rather than, as at present, for the benefit of a privileged few. It also claims your attention to the stupendous railway problem in Canada, involving an additional burden of taxation at the present time. The Government shipbuilding policy, with its waste of public money, is another subject upon which the Progressives in this election seek to enlighten the people. Economy of administration in relation to every department of our Federal Government is demanded in the Progressive policy as a means of helping to bring national expenditures within the bounds of national income. The Progressives, furthermore, explicitly oppose the patronage evil, which we now see the Government reviving.

Any candidate who seeks election to Parliament at this time should be prepared to discuss these issues and pronounce himself upon them. Any candidate representing the Government in this election, moreover, is duty bound to reveal the record of his party on these issues, in addition to indicating future policies. I trust that the electorate of Marquette will insist that matters of such great moment will be dealt with on their merits during the present campaign.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. D. A. A. A." or similar, with a stylized, cursive script.

